

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare in the United States,

according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS: While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group

affect almost 30 million Americans and approximately 50,000 Minnesotans; and

WHEREAS: Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating and have a significant impact on the lives

of those affected; and

WHEREAS: According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 532 drugs and biologics have

been approved for treatment of rare diseases, however, millions of Americans still have a

rare disease for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as

diagnosis delay, difficulty finding medical experts, and lack of access to treatments or

ancillary services; and

WHEREAS: While some rare diseases, such as Lou Gehrig's Disease, are relatively well known by the

public, many others are not; and patients and their families bear a large share of the

burden for raising funds for research; and

WHEREAS: The National Organization for Rare Disorders is organizing the nationwide observance

of Rare Disease Day on February 29, 2016, and patients, their families, medical

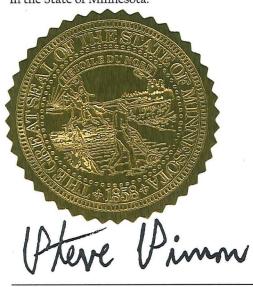
professionals, researchers, government officials, and companies developing treatments

are joining together to focus attention and awareness on rare diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 29, 2016, as:

RARE DISEASE DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 9th day of February.

GOVERNOR